

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 723
Economic Matters

(Delegate Bartlett)

Vending Machines - Display Label - Requirements

This bill requires all vending machines to clearly display the name and telephone number to use to request a refund of money accepted by the machine from a customer if the vending machine fails to deliver the goods or change to the customer. The bill applies to all vending machines, including those that sell and dispense cigarettes, newspapers, magazines, paper cups, paper or cloth towels, soap, toilette seat covers, postage stamps, or sanitary napkins.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State government operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Vending machines are required to clearly display the name and telephone number of the licensee or owner of the machine. Vending machines that sell and dispense cigarettes, newspapers, magazines, paper cups, paper or cloth towels, soap, toilette seat covers, postage stamps, or sanitary napkins are exempt from the requirement to show the name and telephone number of the licensee or owner of the machine.

Background: Because vending machines that sell and dispense cigarettes, newspapers, magazines, paper cups, paper or cloth towels, soap, toilette seat covers, postage stamps,

or sanitary napkins are exempt from the requirement to show the name and telephone number of the licensee or owner of the machine, it will be difficult to enforce this bill's requirement of an additional name and telephone number. The Comptroller's Office indicates that it may be unable to verify the name and telephone number associated with refunds if the machine did not also have the name and telephone number of the licensee or owner.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

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